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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6059
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAA/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6364
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 8701
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 3739
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 6881
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0179
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0886
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3010
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 7547
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7163
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SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - NORTH KOREA AND AFGHANISTAN

11. LEAD STORIES: Most Wednesday morning papers led with continued discussions among the DPJ, the SDP, and the PNP on the formation of a coalition government.

12. "U.S. to Consider Pros and Cons of Dialogue with DPRK" On the conclusion of U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy Bosworth's East Asia tour, the liberal Asahi wrote (9/9): "Following his trip, Bosworth plans to study the pros and cons of [conducting] dialogue [with North Korea]. However, the hurdles to dialogue are high. Gaps remain large between North Korea, which is calling for bilateral dialogue with the U.S. by claiming that it will never return to the Six-Party Talks, and the U.S., which insists that such dialogue would be conducted only within the framework of the Six-Party Talks. It will not be easy [for Washington] to obtain 'full support' [for U.S.-DPRK dialogue] from Japan and South Korea, which have been wary about the U.S. and North Korea possibly moving forward on the nuclear front without their involvement."

12. "Rift Emerges between U.S. and Karzai" On the Afghan presidential election, the conservative Sankei reported from New Delhi (9/9): "There is a possibility that a large number of voting irregularities took place. Even if incumbent President Karzai declares a victory, his opponent former Foreign Minister Abdullah and others are bound to react strongly. The U.S. has called for a thorough investigation [into the election process] in order to head off confusion and ensure the legitimacy of the election results. However, Karzai expressed displeasure [with the U.S. request], leaving the impression of an emerging gulf [between the two]."

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